

**Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0113

Resource Identification

Property Name(s): WFF # Y-015 Assembly Shop #1 {Current}
Property Date: 1950
Address(s): Island Road {Current}
County/Independent City: Accomack
Vicinity of: Chincoteague
State, Zip: Virginia 23337
USGS Quad Name: WALLOPS ISLAND
Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Property has not been evaluated

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal
Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - Flat	Concrete	
Roof	Roof - Flat		Roof - Not visible
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	Structural System - Block
Windows	Window - Industrial	Aluminum	Windows - Plate Glass

Site Description: Located on the east side of Island Road on Wallops Island between the road and the modern sea wall, the buildings is in a flat, level area surrounded by paved areas interspersed with lawn.

WUZIT Count:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Manufacturing Facility	Historic

NR Resource Count:

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Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Manufacturing Facility

Est. Date of Construction: 1950 {Owner/written data} *Accessed?* No Not accessible

Primary Resource? Yes *Number of Stories:* 1.0

Architectural Style: Other *Condition:* Good

Interior Plan Type: Irregular *Threats to Resource:* Neglect
Deterioration

Description: The concrete block building has a poured concrete slab foundation and is divided into two sections—a long one-story section that runs parallel to Island Road and a shorter, two-story section at the south end that is perpendicular to the other. Both sections have flat roofs. While the roof materials are not visible, aluminum flashing wraps the outside edges of the roofs. The one-story section is divided into seven bays, each of which is separated by a concrete block wall and is accessed from the west. Each bay, save the north bay, contains a set of metal double doors with a large, rectangular fixed-pane window flanked by three fixed panes on either side. The north bay contains an aluminum roll top door flanked by a steel door to the north that contains a three-fixed pane aluminum sash window. All of the doors are sheltered by an overhanging canopy that is supported by a concrete wall on the north and a single steel post on the south that rises from a short concrete wall. The canopy extends the length of the west elevation of the one-story section and onto a portion of the two-story section. That section contains a large aluminum roll top door centrally located on the west side. The south elevation contains five, regularly spaced, square-shaped window openings, each of which contains two large, smoked glass picture windows in an aluminum frame. The five openings are contained within a boxed projection that extends out from the wall plane. The east elevation of the two-story section contains a steel door with a three-fixed-pane aluminum sash window roughly in the center of the first floor level, and four openings in the upper north corner, one of which holds a five-light metal awning sash window while the others each contain louvered aluminum vents. The seven bays of the one-story section each hold a three-part window opening, now blocked with what appears to be painted plywood. Galvanized steel ladders provide access from the surrounding paved surface to the roof of the one-story section and from there onto the roof of the two-story section. Two concrete cubicles surround the building, one on the west side and one on the north side, while a modern wood deck, with wood stairs down to grade, stands above a concrete foundation on the east side. The deck holds electrical/mechanical equipment.

Cemetery Information

Bridge Information

National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Technology/Engineering

Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

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Significance Statement: This building was built in 1950 by the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) and was part of the first phase of permanent NACA construction efforts on Wallops Island. The building has been used since its original construction to construct, assemble, load, and check out test vehicles and rockets prior to launch. It is located on Wallops Island, on the east side of Island Road, approximately 40 yards from the current sea wall. The building is surrounded by a concrete paved area that connects with Island Road in two areas on the west side of the building. A concrete drive extends to the north from the northeast corner of the paved area behind the building.

The building is associated with a technology/engineering property type built during the New Dominion Period (1945 – present) period. The building was constructed as a component of a rocket research facility operated by the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station (PARS) under the direction of NACA from 1946 to 1958. Until becoming part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, PARS functioned as a rocket research facility that continually refined its capacity to collect aeronautic and scientific data through improvements in radar tracking, radio telemetry, and photographic techniques that provided significant data for the development of Cold War missile technology and manned spaceflight during the Space Race.

The Model Assembly Shop has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the demolition of many of the buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959), the removal of much of the historic fabric from the majority of extant buildings, and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D. The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. It does not by itself sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with events in order to be eligible under Criterion A, nor does it sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with a person in order to be eligible under Criterion B. While the resource retains its location, setting and association, alterations to the building have adversely affected its integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling, including the in-fill of original openings and the replacement of original windows and doors. Also, as a secondary resource of common design and materials, the resource is not eligible under Criterion C as it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This property does not have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory under Criterion D.

Bibliographic Documentation

Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Book

Author: Joseph Adams Shortal

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: Shortal, Joseph Adams. "A New Dimension—Wallops Island Flight Test Range: The First Fifteen Years." National Aeronautics and Space Administration Scientific and Technical Information Office: 1978.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35MM B&W	21543	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 1-6

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

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CRM Event # 1,

<i>Cultural Resource Management Event:</i>	Reconnaissance Survey
<i>Date:</i>	2003/08/08
<i>Organization or Person:</i>	URS Group
<i>VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: ..</i>	2003-0571
<i>CRM Event Notes or Comments:</i>	7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700 Bethesda, MD 20814

CRM Event # 2,

<i>Cultural Resource Management Event:</i>	Reconnaissance Survey
<i>Date:</i>	2004/07/99
<i>Organization or Person:</i>	URS Group
<i>VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: ..</i>	2003-0571
<i>CRM Event Notes or Comments:</i>	200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101 Gaithersburg, MD 20878